

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add on page 1 of the specification, between the title “APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SURGICAL FASTENING” and the heading “FIELD OF THE INVENTION”, the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This Patent Application claims the benefit of and is a continuation of prior U.S. Application Serial No. 09/851,211 filed on May 8, 2001 which claims the benefit of and is a continuation of prior U.S. Application Serial No. 09/113,827 filed on July 10, 1998, the entire contents of each of which are hereby incorporated by reference. This application claims priority to U.S. application Serial No. 09/113,827 filed July 10, 1998. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 1 and extending to the end of page 38, with the following rewritten paragraph:

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and methods for applying fasteners during endoscopic surgery are provided. The apparatus generally comprises a handle portion, a triggering mechanism and a fastener applicator. One embodiment of the invention forms the fastener around a single focal point on an anvil. Another embodiment vertically stacks the fasteners in a fastener applicator which is readily detachable from the handle portion by virtue of a rotational locking system and which may be replaced with a new fastener applicator having a fresh load of vertically stacked fasteners. The various embodiments may be variously combined together in a single device.

The methods generally include the following steps: forming a fastener by placing it over a single focal point anvil and pressing the fastener against the single focal point anvil using a slide.